

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub B17
1. An ink absorbent formed by fiber material having a face structured by a cut face.
- 5 2. An ink absorbent contained in the housing of an ink tank for storing ink in the interior thereof provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the outside, and an atmospheric communication port to be communicated with the air outside, being formed by
- 10 fiber material having the surface formed at least by thermoforming, wherein
- the face of said ink absorbent facing said supply port on the inner face of said ink tank is a cut face.
- 15 3. An ink absorbent according to Claim 2, wherein the face of said ink absorbent abutting upon a rib on the inner face of said ink tank is the non-cut thermoformed face thereof.
- 20 4. An ink absorbent according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein the face of said ink absorbent facing the atmospheric communication port of said ink tank is the non-cut thermoformed face thereof.
- 25 Sub B27 5. An ink absorbent contained in the housing of an ink tank for storing ink in the interior thereof provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the

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outside, and an atmospheric communication port to be communicated with the air outside, being formed by fiber material having the surface formed at least by thermoforming, wherein

5 the face of said ink absorbent facing the plane having the largest area on the inner face of said ink tank is the cut face thereof.

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10 6. An ink absorbent according to Claim 5, wherein said ink tank comprises a negative pressure generating member installation chamber; a liquid storage chamber communicated with said negative pressure generating member installation chamber through communication passage to store ink to be supplied to said negative

15 pressure generating member installation chamber substantially closed with the exception of said communication portion; and a partition wall member having said communication passage, partitioning said negative pressure generating member installation

20 chamber and said liquid storage chamber.

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cont.

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7. An ink absorbent according to Claim 6, wherein the face of said ink absorbent facing said partition wall member is the cut face thereof.

~~8. An ink absorbent contained in the housing of an ink tank for storing ink in the interior thereof.~~

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cont

~~provided with a supply port for leading out ink to the outside, and an atmospheric communication port to be communicated with the air outside, being formed by fiber material having the surface formed at least by thermoforming, wherein~~

~~two faces of said ink absorbent opposite to each~~  
other are the cut faces.

9. An ink absorbent according to Claim 8, wherein said cut faces are parallel in the fiber direction.

10. An ink tank containing an ink absorbent  
any one of Claims 2, 3, or 5-9  
according to ~~either one of Claim 2 to Claim 9~~ in the  
interior thereof.

~~11. An ink absorbent compressed and inserted into the interior of an ink tank housing for installation to retain ink, wherein~~

said ink absorbent is cut into the inner shape of the ink tank housing under the same condition of compression as at the time of insertion thereof into the ink tank.

12. An ink absorbent according to Claim 11, wherein the degree of compression at the time of cutting is lower than that of the compressed state after the insertion into the ink tank.

13. An ink absorbent according to Claim 12,  
wherein said ink absorbent is formed by foaming  
material or fiber material.

5 14. An ink absorbent according to Claim 11 or  
Claim 12, wherein said ink absorbent is formed by  
laminating two or more fiber blocks.

10 15. An ink tank provided with an ink absorbent  
capable of retaining ink, and a housing having said ink  
absorbent installed therein and an atmospheric  
communication port, wherein

15 said ink absorbent is cut into the inner shape of  
the ink tank housing under the same compressed state as  
at the time of insertion into the ink tank.

16. An ink jet cartridge comprising:  
an ink tank provided with an ink absorbent capable  
of retaining ink, and a housing having said ink  
20 absorbent installed therein, said ink absorbent being  
cut into the inner shape of the ink tank housing under  
the same compressed state as at the time of insertion  
into the ink tank; and

25 a printing head for discharging ink supplied from  
said ink tank.

17. A method for manufacturing an ink absorbent

compressed and inserted into an ink tank housing to be  
able to retain ink, comprising the following steps of:

making said ink absorbent to be in the same  
compressed state as at the time of insertion into the  
5 ink tank; and

cutting said ink absorbent into the inner shape of  
said ink tank housing.

18. An ink tank provided with an ink absorbent  
10 capable of retaining ink, and a housing having said ink  
absorbent installed therein and an atmospheric  
communication port, comprising the following steps of:

making said ink absorbent to be in the same  
compressed state as at the time of insertion into the  
15 ink tank;

cutting said ink absorbent into the inner shape of  
said ink tank housing; and

inserting said ink absorbent into the ink tank  
housing under compression.

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